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Testimony to the Joint Committee on Judiciary, April 15, 2013
Chiefs Anthony Salvatore & Matthew Reed, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and distinguished members of the Committee, The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association **OPPOSES** Raised Bill 6691 – An Act Concerning the Issuance of a Written Complaint and Summons for the Commission of a Misdemeanor or Violation.

This bill removes from our police officers the discretion to make an in custody arrest for crimes deemed misdemeanors. Such crimes include criminally negligent homicide, assault in the third degree with a deadly weapon, assault of an elderly, blind, pregnant or mentally disabled person, threatening, reckless endangerment, sexual assault in the fourth degree, prostitution, criminal trespass and many others. All of these listed crimes are significant and an arrest for such crimes should result in the offender being taken into custody, fingerprinted and booked at police headquarters.

The fingerprinting process is the only true verification of a person's identity and to avoid that process undermines the integrity of our criminal arrest records system and may impede future criminal investigations.

Passage of this bill would be a blow to law enforcement and impede the investigative ability of our police officers.

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association urges the Committee to take no action on this proposed bill.

END